Listing of Claims

The claims pending in the subject-application as of this Amendment are as follows:

Claims 1-12 are canceled.

13. (Previously Presented) An electronic device of the type which alerts a user to an incoming message by connecting an alert signal to a preselected one of first and second alert devices, comprising:

a) a detector which monitors the incoming message to detect the presence of a squelch signal broadcast locally by an emitter and generates a control signal at its output when the squelch signal is detected;

b) a processor operatively connected to the output of the detector;

c) an alert-mode memory-cell storing one of a default binary value and a user-set binary value;

d) a buffer memory connected to the processor and configured to store a predetermined one of two binary values therein in response to the control signal when the squelch signal is detected and also configured to store the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell in the absence of detection of the squelch signal;

e) a switch, operatively connected to the processor, to automatically direct the alert signal to a predetermined one of the first and second alert devices while the squelch signal is being detected as a function of the binary value stored in the buffer memory.

Claims 14-21 are canceled.

22. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 13, further comprising a circuit configured to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

23. (Previously Presented) The electronic device of claim 13, further comprising a software program which executes in the processor so as to populate the buffer memory with the contents of the alert-mode memory-cell when the broadcast squelch signal ceases being detected.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the buffer memory is configured to store only one bit.

25. (Newly Presented) In a device that alerts a user to an incoming message by activating one of an acoustic driver and a vibrator, the device including a buffer memory and an alert-mode memory, the alert mode memory containing one of a default binary value and a user-set binary value, a method for automatically placing the device in a quiet mode of operation comprising the steps of:

a) detecting the presence of a broadcast squelch signal by monitoring signals that arrive at the device from an emitter;

b) generating a control signal in response to the detection of the broadcast squelch signal;

c) writing to the buffer memory a first binary value which signifies the quiet mode of operation in response to the generated control signal and writing to the buffer memory the contents of the alert-mode memory in the absence of the control signal; and

d) controlling a state of an alert mode switch based on the contents of the buffer memory, whereby the vibrator is activated in response to the incoming message whenever the binary value in the buffer memory is the first binary value.

26. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 25, the alert mode memory contents are a second binary value different than the first binary value, and wherein the alert mode switch activates the acoustic driver in response to the incoming message whenever the binary value in the buffer memory is the second binary value.

27. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 25, wherein the squelch signal originates extrinsic to the device.

28. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises comparing incoming signals to an expected signal pattern to detect the presence of a squelch signal.

29. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 25, wherein the detecting step comprises processing incoming signals to extract, when present, an indicium of the presence of the squelch signal and thereby detect the presence of a squelch signal.

30. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 25, including the additional step of shunting the acoustic driver for a period of time after the broadcast squelch signal is detected.

31. (Newly Presented) The method as in claim 30, wherein the step of shunting the acoustic driver continues for a period of time after the broadcast squelch signal is no longer present.

32. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the detecting step monitors a header of the incoming message for inclusion of the broadcast squelch signal.

33. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the buffer memory is configured to store only one bit.